

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Slaikeu et al. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaikeu et al.

Claims 6, 9 and 10 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

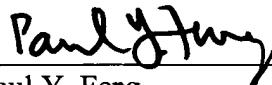
Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6, and is therefore now allowable, along with the claims that depend from claim 1.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of claims 1 and 8, and allowable claim 9. Therefore, amended claim 7 is now in condition for allowance along with claim 10 which has been amended to depend from claim 7.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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SUPERELASTIC GUIDEWIRE WITH
LOCALLY ALTERED PROPERTIES
U.S. Serial No. 09/746,144
Attorney Docket No. ACS 58266 (15951)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) ²² An elongated device for medical procedures, comprising: a superelastic member having proximal and distal ends, and having a first section with a first set of properties and an adjacent second section having a second set of properties which have been altered from the first set of properties; and ²² an elongated proximal member having proximal and distal ends, wherein the proximal end of the superelastic member is secured to the distal end of the proximal member.

7. (Amended) [The] An elongated device [of claim 1] for medical procedures comprising a superelastic member having a first section with a first set of properties and an adjacent second section having a second set of properties which have been altered from the first set of properties and further alloyed with an easily diffusible element, wherein the superelastic member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

10. (Amended) The elongated device of claim [9] ⁷, wherein the easily diffusible element is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon and nitrogen.